AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide, comprising the amino acid sequence as recited in SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein said polypeptide ~~comprising~~ has an immunogenic region of a *Leishmania* antigen, ~~wherein said polypeptide~~ and contains one or more ~~repeat region(s)~~ immunodominant regions of 39 amino acids.

2. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) An isolated DNA sequence as recited in SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4[[.]] encoding a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~polypeptides~~ polypeptide as claimed in claim 1, isolated from ~~Indian~~ a strain ~~strains~~ of *Leishmania donovani.*

4. (Currently amended) A method of detecting anti-leishmanial antibodies in a sample, said method comprising:

~~a. providing a solid support or carrier, bound with~~ binding ~~a polypeptide selected from a group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5 and SEQ ID NO: 6 as claimed in claim 1;~~

(a)~~b.~~ binding ~~the~~ anti-leishmanial antibodies from ~~the~~ said sample to a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6 ~~the polypeptide~~ that is bound to ~~the~~ a solid support or a carrier;

(b)~~c. adding to the content of~~ contacting bound antibodies from step ~~(b) an anti-human~~ (a) with a secondary antibody or a protein, conjugated to an enzyme or a label and that specifically binds to the bound antibodies of step (a); and

(c)~~d.~~ detecting the anti-leishmanial antibodies in the said sample by detecting the secondary antibody or protein specifically bound to said anti-leishmanial antibodies.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the sample is selected from a group consisting of whole blood, serum, plasma and other body fluid.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sample is selected from an animal or a mammal, including human beings.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said solid support is selected from a group consisting of nitrocellulose, nylon, latex particles, polypropylene and polystyrene material.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said carrier is a gold particle.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the anti-human secondary antibody is selected from an antibody classes of IgG, IgM, IgA, IgE and their subclasses.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the protein is selected from a group consisting of Protein A and Protein G.

11. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of Alkaline Phosphatase, Horseradish Peroxidase, ß-galactosidase, Urease, Xanthine Oxidase, Glucose Oxidase and penicillinase.

12. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said label is selected from a group consisting of enzymes, radioisotopes, biotin, chromophores, fluorophores and ~~chemiluminiscent~~ chemiluminescent ~~moiety~~moieties.

13. (Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said detecting step of anti-leishmanial antibodies is selected from the group consisting of detecting fluorescence, detecting ~~chemiluminiscence~~chemiluminescence, detecting light absorbance or detecting radio isotopes.

14. (Currently amended) A diagnostic kit for detecting anti-leishmanial antibodies comprising a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1, ~~an anti-human~~and a secondary antibody or a protein, wherein said ~~anti-human~~ secondary antibody or the protein is conjugated to an enzyme or a label, and ~~conventional reagents~~a reagent for detecting said ~~antibodies~~enzyme or label.

15. (Original) The kit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the said polypeptide is bound to a solid support or carrier.

16. (Original) The kit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the solid support is selected from the group consisting of nitrocellulose, nylon, latex particles, polypropylene and polystyrene material.

17. (Currently amended) The kit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the carrier is a gold particle.

18. (Currently amended) The kit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the ~~anti-human~~ secondary antibody is selected from an antibody class~~es~~ of IgG, IgM, IgA, IgE and their subclasses.

19. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the protein is selected from a group consisting of Protein A and Protein G.

20. (Currently amended) The kit as claimed in claim 14, wherein said label is selected from a group consisting of an enzyme, ~~radio isotope~~a radioisotope, biotin, a chromophore, a fluorophore and a chemiluminiscent moiety.

21. (Original) The kit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of Alkaline Phosphatase, Horseradish Peroxidase, ß-galactosidase, Urease, Xanthine Oxidase, Glucose Oxidase and penicillinase.

22. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) A method of obtaining antibodies to the polypeptide of claim 1, ~~the~~ said method comprising injecting said polypeptide into an animal~~animals~~, harvesting the antibodies produced against the polypeptide and purifying ~~the~~ said antibodies.

23. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the animal is selected from a group consisting of ~~mice~~ a mouse, a rabbit, a horse, a goat, a sheep, a guinea pig, a pig, a bovine, a rat, a chicken and a hamster~~hamsters~~.

24. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) A method of detecting Leishmanial antigens in a sample ~~using the antibodies obtained as per claim 22~~, said method comprising:

~~(a) binding a portion of the antibody to a solid support or carrier;~~

(~~b~~a) adding the sample containing Leishmanial antigens to ~~the antibody~~ an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein said antibody is bound to ~~the~~a solid support or carrier;

(b~~e~~) adding to the contents of step (a~~b~~) another ~~portion of~~ antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6, which is conjugated to an enzyme or a label; and

(c~~d~~) detecting the Leishmanial antigens in the ~~said~~ sample by detecting said enzyme or label.

25. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of whole blood, bone marrow, splenic aspirate, skin biopsy, other tissue biopsy and section smears.

26. (Withdrawn, currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the sample is selected from an animal or a mammal including human beings.

27. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said solid support is selected from the group consisting of nitrocellulose, nylon, latex particles, polypropylene, glass and polystyrene material.

28. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said carrier is a gold particle.

29. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of Alkaline Phosphatase, Horseradish Peroxidase, ß-galactosidase, Urease, Xanthine Oxidase, Glucose Oxidase and penicillinase.

30. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said label is selected from a group consisting of an enzyme, a radioisotope, biotin, a chromophore, a fluorophore and a chemiluminiscent moiety.

31. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said detecting step of Leishmanial antigens is selected from the group consisting of detecting

fluorescence, detecting chemiluminiscence, detecting light absorbance or detecting radio isotopes.

32. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) A diagnostic kit for detecting Leishmanial antigens comprising antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence recited in SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6, said antibody being bound to a solid support or carrier, an antibody conjugated to an enzyme or a label and ~~conventional~~ additional reagents for detecting ~~Leishmanial antigens~~said enzyme or label.

33. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 32, wherein said solid support is selected from the group consisting of nitrocellulose, nylon, latex particles, polypropylene, glass and polystyrene material.

34. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 32, wherein said carrier is a gold particle.

35. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 32, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of Alkaline Phosphatase, Horseradish Peroxidase, ß-galactosidase, Urease, Xanthine Oxidase, Glucose Oxidase and penicillinase.

36. (Withdrawn, Currently amended) The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 32, wherein said label is selected from a group consisting of radioisotope, biotin, chromophore, fluorophore and ~~chemiluminiscent~~ chemiluminescent moiety.

37. (New) The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6.